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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

FRED W. WOOD.

Once more, we are called upon to chronicle the loss of one of our most honored and brightest members, who, by his skill and enterprise built for himself a lasting monument in the hearts of the people of Los Angeles City.

Fred W. Wood was born in Prarie du Chien, Wisconsin, April 28th, 1853, and died in Los Angeles, California, May 19th, 1900. His father, Dr. E. P. Wood, was a Colonel of the 17th Illinois Infantry in the Civil War. Dr. E. P. Wood, father of our subject) married Miss Miriam P. Cleaveland, July 3, 1836, in Peoria, Illinois. She was the great-granddaughter of Gen. Joseph Warren who was killed, June 17, 1775 at the battle of Bunker Hill. When Gen. Washington heard of his death, he knelt and said: "May God receive his soul in heaven. He won the day, and fell." Thus Fred W. Wood was a descendant of noble stock, of which he was justly proud. And it may well be said, he has added lustre to his ancestry.

At the close of the Civil War, his father and family moved to Kansas City, where young Fred entered the High School. He remained in this school but a short time when he entered the University of Michigan. His chief aim and specialty was to complete his studies as civil engineer, which he chose as his profession. He remained at the University about two years, then returned to Kansas City and entered the office of the city engineer as draughtsman. The accuracy of his work and the skill of his designs soon won for him the confidence of the head of the department.

At the age of eighteen his efficiency became so well known that he was offered and accepted a position in the civil engineer department of the Chicago & Great Northwestern Railroad service, where he, at nineteen, became Assistant Chief Engineer in selecting and locating the lines of this enterprise. Endowed by nature with an earnest, energetic and progressive spirit, he soon rose to a position of prominence in his profession, and gained the confidence of the great railroad magnates.

At the age of twenty, after two years service in this great railroad company, he resigned and entered the University at

Ann Arbor, Michigan, in order to polish his practical acquirements, but he soon concluded that the University polish was not of sufficient importance to justify the time required to complete his studies, so he soon left the University.

He came to California in the fall of 1873, and in March, 1874, came to Los Angeles. His ability as an engineer soon became known. He suggested the scheme and became interested with Mr. Prudent Beaudry in the construction of the Beaudry City Water Works, which proved to be a great success in the development in the hills west of old Los Angeles, supplying that portion of the city with good, pure water. In this enterprise he established his engineering ability, and his services were in great demand.

He soon became affiliated in the development of the Lake Vineyard Land & Water Company at Pasadena, of which he was secretary for five years. In 1882 he was given charge of, and became general manager of the laying out and planting of the great San Gabriel vineyard, and building of the immense San Gabriel winery and distillery, which, at that time, was considered the largest winery in the world. All of which was done with so much skill and ability that Mr. Shorb, the principal owner and president of the company said: "This man, Fred Wood, is the genius of the age."

In 1886 he resigned management of the winery, and again became identified with Mr. Prudent Beaudry in reconstructing the Temple Street Cable Railway line in Los Angeles, which proved a great benefit and success, and he soon became the general manager of the business of Prudent Beaudry and Victor Beaudry, and upon the death of Mr. Victor Beaudry, Mr. Wood was appointed executor of his large estate, without bonds. He managed this estate and settled it up to the full satisfaction of all the parties interested.

In 1893 Mr. Prudent Beaudry died, he also leaving his immense estate and the management of his business in the hands of Mr. Wood, which he continued to look after and manage until his death, at which time every part and parcel was found by the heirs to be straight and satisfactory.

In 1895 Mr. Wood became the general manager of the Los Angeles Street Railway Company which controls nearly all of the most important street railways in Los Angeles City, the system and service of which is equal to any large city in the United States. Under the judicious supervision of Mr. Wood, the general efficiency of the system was greatly improved and placed on a paying basis.

His greatest ambition was the success of this railway system and the upbuilding of the City of Los Angeles. He continued the general management of this street railway until his death. When he was too feeble to leave his sick-bed, he had his stenographer come and sit by his bedside while he dictated instructions.

He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, The American Electrical Engineers, and the American Institute of Architects. He studied law at home in his leisure moments and was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court in 1893; this knowledge of law assisted him greatly in the management of his business affairs. During his earlier life he was a great student and seldom found time for light amusements. He always kept a room fitted up as a laboratory where he spent his leisure time studying—and even the late hours of night often found him experimenting in chemistry, electricity or engineering problems. He tried to learn everything he could about the different methods and results of each. When he could learn no more from others, he would form new ideas of his own upon which he would practice until success would reward him for his labor. He was a great admirer of Edison, to whom he gave credit for the success of his business life.

He was a man of exceptionally good habits, temperate in all things. He had the fullest confidence and respect of all his business associates. He had strong convictions of right and wrong, paid strict attention to his own business; he was shrewd and honest to the core; his heart was pure and tender as that of a child. His influence and sympathy was always with the deserving and the weak. The writer once asked him why it was he knew so little about ancient history; his reply was, "I have never found time to read it; it takes all of my leisure time to read and study modern science; this is an age of progress; there is something new to learn every day that needs our attention."

He possessed a clear, logical mind, a capacity to comprehend details, a strong will power, with great perseverance and industry. He knew how to handle men, so that they loved him for his kindness and justice. Mr. Wood said to a friend shortly before his last illness, "Yes, I know I cannot live many more years, but I would rather make my life a success and live the remainder of my days among successful business men, than to give up an active career merely to live in idleness."

His mother said of him, "Fred was always a good, obedient child; he never gave me any uneasiness. When he was about

fifteen years of age, I noticed him getting letters from **men of** note, which he seemed to cherish. He would read them, **then** store them away carefully. I asked him why he read them **with** so much interest and of what use were they to him **after he** read them. His reply was, "Mother, they may come **handy** and be useful some day." And so they were. They were letters from some of the greatest civil engineers in America. **She** also said, "My advice to him was, let your life be such **that the** world will be the better for your having lived in it, and **when** you look in the glass you will look in the face of an **honest** man."

Mr. Wood was married in Los Angeles, December, 1882, to Miss Leona P. Dupuytren, a native of California, **and a** grand niece of the celebrated French physician, Dr. Dupuytren. Mrs. Wood is a highly educated lady of fine business ability. She proved herself a good helpmeet. One son, Warren Dupuytren Wood, born October 15th, 1885, is their only **child**. He is a bright, vigorous young man of sixteen, the **pride of** his mother. The mother, wife and son have a warm place in the affections of this community, and in the hearts of **all** pioneers.

Respectfully,

M. F. QUINN,

Committee.

Los Angeles, Cal., July 2nd, 1901.

IN MEMORIAM.

THOMAS E. ROWAN.

LOS ANGELES, May 7, 1901.

To the Pioneers of Los Angeles County.

Brothers: We, your committee appointed to report a memorial record of our departed member, Thomas E. Rowan, respectfully submit the following:

Our brother, who, at the age of 59 years, passed behind **the** veil that limits earthly vision, was born A. D. 1842, in the **State** of New York, of honest parents, whose strong industrial **traits** they transmitted undiminished to him. In 1858 the whole **fam-**ily came to San Francisco, remaining in the upper part of **this** State until 1860, when they came to Los Angeles. Here **the** father started the American Bakery, which prospered until **he** died. Thomas, with an eye on a business future, sought **and**